

# Leroy Township Summer 2017 Newsletter

8156 4 Mile Road, East Leroy, MI 49051 Phone 269 979-9421 Website: leroytownship.org  
Office Hours: Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Dear Resident:

The newsletter is always mailed with your tax bill to save on postage - so I think that may make it hard to enjoy! But I hope you will take the time to read through and hopefully find some useful information.

Speaking of tax bills: Did you know that only 3% of the taxes you pay at the Township Office are kept for use in Leroy Township? 97% of all tax monies collected at our office are disbursed to school districts, local community colleges, intermediate school districts, county government, county drain office and a local library.

In addition compare the Leroy Township Operating Millage rate which is 0.7635 to surrounding townships 2016 millage rates:

Newton: 0.8224  
Burlington: 1.8699  
Lee: 0.9295  
Fredonia: 3.1167  
Athens: 0.8832  
Marshall: 2.6261  
Tekonsha: 4.3523  
Climax: 1.8416

Now compare the above township millage rates to those of area cities and villages 2016 rate:

Albion City: 18.0802  
City of Battle Creek: 14.049  
Marshall City: 17.2062  
Athens Village: 9.5259  
Burlington Village: 9.8516  
Climax Village: 9.000

My hope is that these millage rate numbers will help lessen the blow of your tax bill and see that living in a Township makes economic sense. We may not have all the bells and whistles of living inside the City line but compare the tax savings, and I think you'll agree that Leroy Township is a great place to live and raise a family. Our office staff is part-time but they provide excellent service. The On-Call Fire Department responds to over 200 calls each year;

many of those calls as medical first responders. We offer a public boat ramp on Graham Lake, a community room for rentals, operate 4 cemeteries, administer elections, keep assessing records up to date, coordinate building inspections, collect taxes, provide notary service, and hold 2 free dumpster/clean-up days each year.

The spring dumpster day was held behind the Fire Department on May 6 with over 125 loads brought in. Metal is recycled while the 'junk' is compressed into a packer truck. Two large packer trucks were filled and 2 roll-off containers were loaded with metal. **The FALL DUMPSTER DAY will again be held behind the Fire Station on 4 Mile Road from 9 a.m. - 12 Noon on SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7.** It is a great time to get rid of old carpeting, couches, recliners, lawn mowers, grills, mattresses, etc. You can bring multiple loads but you will need proof of residency and help to unload your items. The township pays approximately \$1800 for each of these collection days but we feel it is well worth it giving you an opportunity to dispose of unwanted, unusable items without paying the fee to take them to the landfill. Hope to see you on October 7!

This spring we have seen a large increase in the number of building permits being issued. The economy is finally recovering! Let me quickly run through the permit process. Electrical, plumbing, mechanical, building and zoning permits are all available in the office and on our website. It is very important that you sketch the new construction including relationship to existing buildings and measurements from the road, both side lot lines and back property line. Once your permits are turned in to the office, they are given to our inspectors who calculate the cost of the permit. After the permit fee is paid, the permit is issued in our office. As your project progresses, you schedule the inspections directly with the inspector who will keep our office updated. **REMEMBER: There are additional fees**

for construction started without a permit. And every structure put on your property needs a permit. Even a utility shed needs a Zoning Permit to make sure that property setback requirements (the distance from your property line and your neighbor's) are met.

The reason that Zoning permits are so important is that we have seen many examples of sheds, garages, pole buildings and driveways being constructed on neighboring properties in the last few months. Property line disputes are a civil matter between property owners but we are trying to prevent such errors from happening and recommend hiring a surveyor when in doubt.

Allow me to also define an accessory building from our Code of Ordinances Sec. 38-53. An accessory building is a subordinate building, meaning that there is a house or dwelling on the same property. **We do not allow storage (accessory) buildings on a property without a dwelling.** In addition, the definition clearly states: **An accessory building does not include any portable or temporary structure, such as a semi-trailer used for storage. Many businesses will rent or sell semi trailers to individuals for storage but they cannot legally be placed on a property in Leroy Township.**

In any of our residential zoned properties, the parking of motor vehicles is limited to passenger vehicles, one recreational vehicle, and not more than one commercial light delivery type vehicle, not to exceed ¾ ton. The Blight Ordinance goes into further detail about dismantled or inoperable motor vehicles – they are not allowed on any platted or unplatted land in the township – dismantled, partially dismantled or inoperable motor vehicles or part thereof must be kept in a wholly enclosed garage or structure.

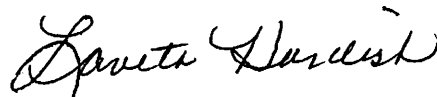
Our entire Code of Ordinances – both Board and Zoning – have been updated into a easy to use and search format and can be viewed on the website: [leroytownship.org](http://leroytownship.org)

As I wrap up permits, please note that Burn Permits are also available either in the office or on-line and are required for any fire larger than a 3' x 3' area. They are free of charge, can be renewed by phone, and are in effective from April 1 – March 31 of each year.

The proposed township road millage on November 2016's ballot was defeated by 22 votes with 2,007 of our registered voters casting a ballot. Road funding is a very complex issue – in a nutshell: Cities, Villages and Counties receive gas tax monies to repair and reconstruct roads. Townships do not receive any money from any source for road repair and/or reconstruction outside of a township millage, county millage or special assessment district. Primary and State roads are 100% the responsibility of the County Road Department to maintain and repair. State of Michigan statutes (laws) require townships to pay at least 50% of any maintenance or reconstruction on local roads (Leroy has approximately 40 miles). Without the 50% contribution, the County will continue to fill potholes but road resurfacing or reconstruction will not take place on local roads. I need resident input as to how you want the board to proceed regarding road funding. Should we put the topic back on the ballot in 2018?

Also, Medical Marijuana laws have changed and larger grow operations and provisioning centers will be allowed in Michigan townships starting in December 2017 if the local township board takes action. Our Board stands firm that our oath of office is to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Michigan. Marijuana is still an illegal drug under both federal and state law and our board will not be taking the necessary steps to allow for these facilities in Leroy Township.

If I can answer any questions, please call or stop in to see me. Be safe and enjoy your summer!



Laveta Hardish, Supervisor  
Trustees: Jon Bolton, Doug Chapman  
Treasurer: Mark Christoff  
Clerk: Brenda Schuetz